

**AFFIDAVIT**  
**Lt Col William O. Howe, Jr.**

I, William O. Howe, Jr., being first duly sworn, depose and state:

1. My name is William O. Howe, Jr. I am a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force. I am competent to make this Affidavit and do so based on personal knowledge of the following facts.
2. From June 1995 to March 1999, I was on the faculty of the Air Force Air War College (AWC) non-resident program at Maxwell Air Force Base. For the 1997-1998 academic year, I was the faculty advisor for the AWC seminar at MacDill Air Force Base and was responsible for grading all of the papers from MacDill students that year. It is also possible I graded MacDill seminar papers from other years as well.
3. I have examined the AWC paper entitled "An Analysis of the Anglo-American Combined Bomber Offensive in Europe During World War II, 1942-1945," the cover page of which lists Lt Col Gregory P. Holder as the author (the "purported Holder paper").
4. This topic is one of five topics from which students could choose to write their AWC papers during the academic year if they elected to complete option 1, in which case these papers were due at AWC just after the start of the new calendar year. The paper topics were the same, not just for students taking AWC at MacDill, but also for all other locations in the world at which AWC is offered. Thus, there have been thousands of AWC papers written on the same topic as the purported Holder paper. I have personally graded dozens of AWC papers on this topic and literally hundreds of AWC papers on other topics.
5. Consequently, it is impossible for me to remember or personally recognize all of the AWC papers that I have graded and I have no independent recollection of either reading or grading the purported Holder paper. However, I can confirm the handwritten comments on the purported Holder paper are in fact mine. However, I do not personally recognize the paper that Lt Col Holder or any other student submitted to the AWC in 1998. Therefore, I have no way of knowing whether the purported Holder paper was written by Col Holder, another AWC student, or otherwise. Other than the separate signature and title pages, and in some cases the final comments made on the last page of the paper, I cannot identify this paper, or any other paper I graded, as belonging to any one particular student.
6. Additionally, it is significant that, on the last page of the purported Holder paper, there are no personalized comments by me to the author and there is no brief notation of the final grade. It was my standard procedure to write personal comments to the student and/or place a grade on the last page of AWC papers that I graded. Therefore, I find their absence to be unusual. If the purported Holder paper was, in fact, the paper that then-Lt Col Holder submitted to the AWC in 1998, my comments and grade should have been on the last page of that paper.
7. For the reasons set forth above, I cannot conclusively identify or otherwise authenticate the purported Holder paper as being the AWC paper that then-Lt Col Holder submitted to the AWC in 1998.

WILLIAM O. HOWE, JR., Lt Col, USAF

The foregoing Affidavit was sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of August 2003,  
by William O. Howe, Jr.

/S/

Notary Seal

Julia D. Hawthorne

Notary Public

State of VA

My Commission expires 6-30-04